

Message

From: Mike Johnson [Mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org]
Sent: 4/2/2020 3:32:48 PM
To: Andrae, Bill/MKE [William.Andrae@jacobs.com]; Giancarlo, Mary Beth [Giancarlo.Marybeth@epa.gov]; bill.zawiski@epa.state.oh.us
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Free the Falls Section 7 Consultation

See below. Section 7 consultation has been initiated. Will keep you all posted.

Mike

From: Boyer, Angela <angela_boyer@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Mike Johnson <Mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org>
Cc: Ramsey Langford <RLangford@summitmetroparks.org>; Rob Curtis <rcurtis@summitmetroparks.org>; Megan Shaeffer <MShaeffer@summitmetroparks.org>; Charlotte Gintert <CGintert@summitmetroparks.org>; Peg Bobel <PBobel@summitmetroparks.org>; Elaine Marsh <EMarsh@summitmetroparks.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Free the Falls Section 7 Consultation

Mike,

I forwarded your request to our general inbox (Ohio@fws.gov). The project will be assigned to a staff biologist for review.

Angie

From: Mike Johnson <Mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:17 AM
To: Boyer, Angela <angela_boyer@fws.gov>
Cc: Ramsey Langford <RLangford@summitmetroparks.org>; Rob Curtis <rcurtis@summitmetroparks.org>; Megan Shaeffer <MShaeffer@summitmetroparks.org>; Charlotte Gintert <CGintert@summitmetroparks.org>; Peg Bobel <PBobel@summitmetroparks.org>; Elaine Marsh <EMarsh@summitmetroparks.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Free the Falls Section 7 Consultation

Hi Angela.

I hope you are well during this strange time. I am writing to begin coordination on a project to remove the Gorge Dam and restore a section of the Cuyahoga River to free flowing conditions. A feasibility study was completed in 2017 by Tetra Tech and the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC). We are currently in the design and engineering phase for removal and containment of the sediment that has collected behind the Gorge Dam. The sediment (approximately 900,000 cubic yards) is contaminated but has been determined to be non-toxic. Jacobs (formerly CH2M Hill) is the engineering firm contracted for this phase of the project. They are contracted directly by the USEPA that is the lead federal agency. USEPA requested Metro Parks initiate Section 7 consultation. The current plan is to pipe/pump the sediment downstream to a depositional area that has been identified along the river at Cascade Valley Metro Park.

The proposed depositional area (about 35-acres) is entirely forested and supports some wetlands areas. Although the area is forested, it is highly disturbed as the site was a former dump and landfill. Still, the area supports moderately mature trees, is along a major river, and certainly has value to bats that inhabit the region. Once the sediment has been contained, the area will be reforested.

We have a great deal of information, data, plans, and documents for this project. Maybe we could schedule a call next week to talk about this and determine what you will need for your review. In the meantime, I have attached a few basic maps that illustrate the general concepts we are considering.

Please let me know if there is a time next week we might be able to talk. Everyone at Metro Parks is currently working from home so I am wide open for next week.

Mike Johnson
Chief of Conservation
Summit Metro Parks
330-472-7013

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